

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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Contact: Ernie Seneca
Phone: 919/733-5612

**GOV. EASLEY ASKS NORTH CAROLINA BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER
TO DEVELOP LONG-RANGE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY**

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley has asked the North Carolina Biotechnology Center to lead the development of a strategic business plan for growing the biotech industry in North Carolina.

“We are aggressively building our biotechnology infrastructure in North Carolina,” Easley said. “We want those industries that are creating jobs around the country to know our commitment and to know that North Carolina is home to biotech.”

Former governors Jim Hunt and Jim Martin will co-chair a 15-member blue ribbon steering committee of distinguished business, academic and government leaders from throughout the state. *(Editors: a list of steering committee members, invited to serve by Easley, follows this news release.)*

Six working groups will be formed to analyze areas critical to biotechnology development including university research and infrastructure; K-12 education; workforce training; entrepreneurial companies; recruitment of life science companies; and public policy and societal considerations.

The steering committee will hold its first meeting Wednesday, July 16, at 2 p.m. at the N.C. Biotechnology Center. Their final plan is due to Easley on Oct. 31.

“The Biotechnology Center is honored to have been chosen for this important job and will work diligently with leaders throughout the state to draft a clear road map to the state’s biotechnology future,” said Leslie Alexandre, president and chief executive officer of the Biotechnology Center. “Our goal is to craft a plan that fully taps North Carolina’s many resources to create jobs and products for the long-term benefit of all North Carolinians.”

North Carolina’s biotechnology industry ranks among the nation’s five largest, with more than 150 companies employing 18,500 people and generating annual revenues of \$3 billion. The industry has grown steadily by 10 to 15 percent in recent years.

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